

Minutes, June 17, 2003  
Aerospace Standards Users Group

1. Attendees:

Steve Butt, Lockheed  
Paul Gill, NASA  
Danny Garcia, NASA  
Dan Mellen, NASA  
Dr. Scott Hawker, Univ of Alabama/MSFC Summer Faculty  
Cliff Elder, NAVAIR  
Phyllis Hulse, Raytheon  
John Albanese, Systems & Electronics, Inc.  
Greg Saunders, DSPO  
Ann Sides, L-3 Integrated Systems  
Laura Hitchcock, Boeing (by phone)  
Roger Merrick, Bombardier (by phone)  
Howard Waller, Bombardier (by phone)  
Bill Anderson, Space Alliance (visited for part of the meeting)

2. The following presented how standards are used and managed in their company or agency: Steve Butt, Phyllis Hulse, Paul Gill, John Albanese, Greg Saunders, Ann Sides, Cliff Elder, Laura Hitchcock

The presentations were excellent and we found that most of us are dealing with very similar issues. Many persons expressed interest learning more about NASA's Lessons Learned Integration System, and Paul will be asked to present this again at a future meeting. The group might want to consider pulling information from all of these presentations for lessons learned applications.

3. The group discussed the usefulness of an e-mail based mailing list, and felt this would be beneficial. John Albanese and Scott Hawker will follow-up on this.

4. Mil-Hdbk-5. The RFP has not been released at this time. It was reported to be in discussion by FAA upper management.

5. Andy Updegrove from Lucash, Gesmer & Updegrove lawfirm joined by phone and provided Information on antitrust laws. They have worked with over 50 consortia, including OASIS, OMG, Open-GIS. Andy provided some good information on what types of scenarios to avoid, and defined collusion and boycotting. Some info:

- If developing a second source, we are not boycotting. You cannot boycott a sole source.
- It is okay to try to influence/educate government practice
- It is okay to conduct a survey of prices and submitting it to government or existing SDOs.
- Buying collaboratives are okay as long as they do not do certain things, such as boycotting or collaborative pressure.
- It is okay to demonstrate to an SDO that they are high-priced or they have practices we don't like.
- Discussed some pressure options.

6. Reviewed charter. It was suggested to drop "Defense" from the group's name. Everyone agreed this would give us a wider potential membership. It was suggested that we have members sign the charter and this will be discussed with the lawyer.

## 7. Reviewed metrics.

- **Individual document** costs were presented by Greg Saunders.
- **Usage vs. Cost** figures were presented. Two other members volunteered to send in their usage/cost percentages. Currently, SAE documents are an average of 3.1% of documents accessed, and 31% of the cost.  
These examples will be added to lessons learned in showing the value of analysis by *line item* cost and usage.
- **Customer Satisfaction Survey results.** The following document types were identified as the highest usage: DoD, AIA, IPC, ASTM, ASME, ISO, SAE, EAI

The team looked at highest usage and lowest survey scores, and decided to focus on the following four SDOs.

SAE score 22.10, usage 32,243  
ASTM score 31.73, usage 24,373  
EIA score 20.35, usage 3437  
ISO score 27.00, usage 2727

Median score: 29.05  
Highest score: 42.50  
Lowest score: 15.08

Highest usage: DoD 437,373

The four SDOs will be given their individual scores and the breakdown, along with the median, highest and lowest scores. It was decided to approach SAE first, since the SAE Aerospace Council is in September. Communication plans for the other SDOs will be developed after the SAE meeting.

8. Developed a communication plan for SAE Council meeting. Discussed what cost avoidance steps would be recommended to the Council. Phyllis Hulse suggested asking the SDOs what options they would recommend for cost containment. Greg Saunders suggested an outline and Steve Butt is working on a draft. Suggested recommendations:
- Provide documents to multiple sources for true competition.
  - Provide superseding documents for canceled mil specs that are “unchanged” at a reduced price, and/or as a separate subscription at a reduced price.  
(consider wording “DoD developed” instead of “unchanged”)
  - Provide licensing flexibility.

At this point, do not discuss possible consequences to SDOs if they do not address these issues.

Steve Butt will follow up with a Lockheed Aerospace Council representative for a request to be heard by the Aerospace Council.

9. Discussed option of sharing a cross-reference list of which mil specs were superseded with no change. One company has developed a list, and is checking if they can share it. They have about 170 mil specs left to work. The group volunteered to work 40 specs. About 1500 mil specs were canceled.

A company has developed a cross-reference list of alternatives to superseding documents. This would be for new design only. They are checking if they can share this information.

We had a short discussion on part number changes, and need to look further into this.

10. John Albanese gave a presentation on Digital Rights Management.

11. Meeting wrap-up: reviewed good points of the day.
  - Developed plan to approach SAE
  - Good discussion with attorney
  - Good dialog, sharing of lessons learned
  - Meeting in person was beneficial
  - Not alone in concerns
  - Good idea to ask SDOs to help solve our problems
  - Good for agencies to understand how private industry is trying to contain costs
  - We're all after the same results.
  - Tying lessons learned to specs and standards provides new avenue as NASA currently does
  - Future conference calls will be better
12. Discussed list of prospective members and asked for volunteers to contact them.
  - Aerospace Corp – Paul Gill
  - B.F. Goodrich – Ann Sides
  - DynCorp – Cliff Elder
  - Jacobs Engineering Group – Phyllis Hulse
  - Rockwell Collins Inc. – Phyllis Hulse
  - Textron – Ann
13. Next meeting date: July 30, 1:00 EDT.
14. Action Items:
  - Draft presentation to SAE – Steve Butt
  - Listing of canceled mil specs with superseding docs, with dates – Steve Butt
  - SAE equivalents for new design – Steve Butt
  - Provide cost V. usage data to Ann Sides – Paul Gill & Cliff Elder
  - Contact NIST, Mary Saunders – Scott Hawker
  - Cross-reference list of canceled mil specs – Roger Merrick
  - Paul, Phyllis, Ann and Steve will each work 10 docs
  - Investigate list server/Yahoo groups – John Albanese and Scott
  - Add change of name to minutes – Ann Sides
  - Send e-mail addresses and phone numbers of persons attending to group – Ann

**Misc:**

I believe it is important to note that during the company presentations, at least 4 companies recorded savings of over 50% in the last 3-4 years. I believe we have some of the most knowledgeable folks in the industry working on this effort. I applaud you for your hard work in the last months leading up to this conference, and for your willingness to share your expertise with others.

I'd also like to express my appreciation to all the NASA folks for hosting the conference, and especially Nick Lance and Debbie Horton of Johnson Space Center for being such outstanding hosts. Not only did Nick provide a state of the art conference rooms, but he took time out of his busy schedule on Wednesday and accompanied us on our tour. Nick was working at NASA during Apollo 13 and had some very interesting insights. Keep up the good work, guys - - we're proud of you!

I'm looking for volunteers to help pull out some important features of the company presentations. I'd also like the group to consider hosting a secure web site to share the company presentations with other members. Please let me know if you can help with either of these objectives.

Regards,  
Ann